

Guidance for Cleaning Oxygen Equipment

The following information is an excerpt from Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. This guidance for cleaning oxygen equipment has been shown as a best practice given Legionella's ubiquitous nature.

Oxygen humidifiers

a. Follow manufacturers' instructions for use of oxygen humidifiers (II,C) (29;54–56).

b. Change the humidifier-tubing (including any nasal prongs or mask) that is in use on one patient when it malfunctions or becomes visibly contaminated (II).

5. Small-volume medication nebulizers: in-line and hand-held nebulizers

a. Between treatments on the same patient clean, disinfect, rinse with sterile water (if rinsing is needed), and dry small-volume in-line or hand-held medication nebulizers (IB) (57–59).

b. Use only sterile fluid for nebulization, and dispense the fluid into the nebulizer aseptically (IA) (40–42,58,60–62).

c. Whenever possible, use aerosolized medications in single-dose vials. If multidose medication vials are used, follow manufacturers' instructions for handling, storing, and dispensing the medications (IB) (60,62–67).

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